

## BOOK REVIEW

RICHARD B. PRIMACK. 2008. **A Primer of Conservation Biology, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition.** (ISBN 978-0-87893-692-2, hbk.). Sinauer Associated Inc., 23 Plumtree Road, Sunderland, Massachusetts 01375, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.sinauer.com, orders@sinauer.com, 413-549-1118 fax). \$49.95, 293 pp., 123 illustrations, 9 1/4"× 7 1/4".

Despite its primer epithet, this concise version of the larger *Essentials of Conservation Biology 4th Ed.* delivers an expansive review of the current state of conservation biology. This is an excellent reference for both short-course and non-major elective offerings. The material also begs the development of public outreach lectures. The publisher has in fact developed a companion resource CD that includes electronic versions of all photos, graphs and tables for qualified adopters of the text.

The field of conservation biology has emerged in the past 30 years to address the rapid decline of biodiversity. The first four chapters explore the definitions, value of, and threats to biodiversity. Chapter five discusses the finality of extinction and its impact on the global ecosystem. Chapters six through eight develop the ideas of species and population conservation and conservation in both protected and non-protected areas.

New in the fourth edition is information on global hotspots targeted for conservation efforts and the latest research on endangered species. In the final chapter, the challenges of sustainable development and problems associated with conservation funding are discussed.

I will enthusiastically recommend this well-written and accessible text to the members of my Master Naturalist Chapter and lobby for its inclusion in the State Master Naturalist Curriculum.—Gary L. Hinds, Chemist, Rio Brazos Master Naturalist, and BRIT volunteer, Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A.